

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am in favor of the decision to settle the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. Little will be gained by continued litigation, especially in light of the vast concessions Microsoft has made.

Contrary to assertions made by their competitors, Microsoft will not be getting off easy. The settlement agreement will impose numerous restrictions on the way Microsoft conducts its business. For instance, Microsoft will not enter into agreements obligating third parties to exclusively distribute Windows products. They have also agreed not enforce many of their intellectual property rights. Instead of calling for more litigation, Microsoft's competitors should be overjoyed by the changes that will be taking place in Microsoft's business practices.

I am hopeful the court will approve the settlement. The time has come for the parties to move on, and to focus on other matters.

Sincerely,



Michael Baldasare